

7802 153rd Avenue  
Jamaica, NY 11414-1752

January 22, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am expressing my support for the settlement that was reached in November 2001. I have a degree in economics, and I firmly support the principle of "Laissez-Faire", where the government has a "hands off" policy and does not interfere with the affairs of free enterprise. Free competition will support itself, giving way to the most innovation. Microsoft should not have been punished for creating a product, Windows, which succeeded in the marketplace.

Microsoft has had to choose the lesser of two evils for itself by settling this unfair lawsuit. The terms are very tough, but will be better for it than more protracted court battles. It will have to make serious concessions such as sharing specific Windows software codes with competitive developers in an effort to promulgate competition and innovation.

I support Microsoft's resolve to stay clear of any more court entanglements and hope you accept the settlement as well to bring an end to this litigation, which has hurt the whole economy.

Sincerely,

Mel Lipper

cc: Representative Anthony David Weiner